



The Neutrino Option

Brivio, Ilaria

Published in:
P o S - Proceedings of Science

DOI:
[10.22323/1.314.0097](https://doi.org/10.22323/1.314.0097)

Publication date:
2018

Document version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Citation for published version (APA):
Brivio, I. (2018). The Neutrino Option. *P o S - Proceedings of Science*, 314, [097].
<https://doi.org/10.22323/1.314.0097>

The Neutrino Option

Ilaria Brivio^{*†}

Niels Bohr International Academy and Discovery Center, Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Blegdamsvej 17, DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark

E-mail: ilaria.brivio@nbi.ku.dk

We discuss the possibility that the Higgs potential and electroweak scale are generated radiatively in a type-I seesaw scenario. A Higgs potential consistent with experimental constraints can be obtained in this hypothesis for a Majorana mass scale $m_N \sim 10 - 500$ PeV and with neutrino Yukawa couplings of order $|\omega| \sim 10^{-4.5} - 10^{-6}$. Remarkably, neutrino masses and mixings can be simultaneously accommodated within this parameter space. This framework, that ties together Higgs phenomenology, precision top quark mass measurements and neutrino physics, represents an alternative approach to the hierarchy problem, in which the Higgs mass is not stabilized around the TeV scale, but rather determined by radiative corrections at higher energies. Traditional hurdles in overcoming the hierarchy problem are then traded for the new challenge of generating PeV Majorana masses while suppressing the tree-level scalar potential in the UV.

*The European Physical Society Conference on High Energy Physics
5-12 July, 2017
Venice*

^{*}Speaker.

[†]Supported by the Villum Fonden and the Danish National Research Foundation (DNRF91).

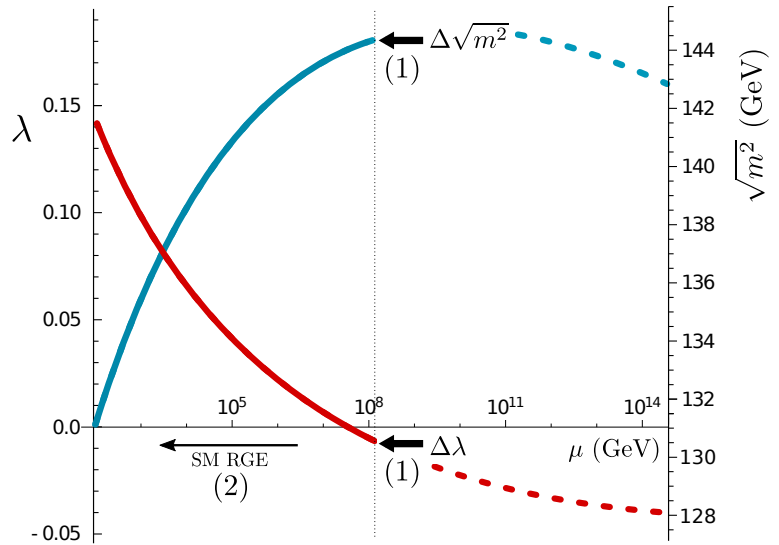
1. Introduction

One of the major lacunas of the Standard Model (SM) is the lack of a dynamical origin for the Higgs potential, that renders the vacuum structure of the theory extremely sensitive to quantum corrections from heavy states coupling to the field H . These states generally give finite radiative contributions to $(H^\dagger H)$, that are proportional to the square of their mass and remain present when the heavy particles are integrated out of the spectrum. This directly follows from dimensional analysis and considering the matching of a generic UV Lagrangian onto the SM in an Effective Field Theory (EFT) approach. Using the EFT language, here we refer to those quantities as threshold matching contributions. The hierarchy problem can then be expressed in terms of thresholds $\Delta m_h^2 \gg (125 \text{ GeV})^2$ being typically induced in the presence of heavy new physics sectors.

The most popular solutions to this issue aim at suppressing these contributions: they typically use symmetries either to enforce cancellations among different threshold contributions (for instance supersymmetry) or to make the thresholds naturally small and close to the electroweak (EW) scale (e.g. the shift symmetry typical of composite Higgs models). A common feature of these scenarios is that, by construction, the potential is stabilized at the TeV scale. This point appears to be problematic for two main reasons: one is that it implies that new particles are expected close to the TeV energy range, a condition that has not been yet validated by experimental evidence. The other reason is that the measured Higgs mass and vacuum expectation value point to a relatively small quartic coupling $\lambda \sim 0.13$, a value that is quite difficult to obtain at the TeV scale without introducing additional fine tunings [1]. The latter are inevitable if the potential is tree-level generated, which typically yields a larger λ . On the other hand, tensions in the parameter space also emerge assuming that the potential fully originates at one-loop in a weakly coupled theory. For instance, in composite Higgs models this assumption would be natural for a compositeness scale $f \sim v$, which is in contrast with the measurements of the Higgs couplings and with EW precision tests, that instead point to $f > v$ [1]. For these reasons, it is worth considering alternative approaches.

An interesting possibility is to employ threshold corrections, rather than suppressing them, to generate the scalar potential at a scale M (much) larger than the TeV [3]. The idea, illustrated

Figure 1: Schematic illustration of the approach presented: the parameters of the Higgs potential are first (1) fixed by threshold corrections $\Delta\lambda$, $\Delta\sqrt{m^2}$ at a scale much higher than the TeV and then (2) run down to the EW scale according to the SM RGE. The red line and left axis (blue line and right axis) show $\lambda(\mu)$ ($\sqrt{m^2}(\mu)$) according to the SM 1-loop running [2].



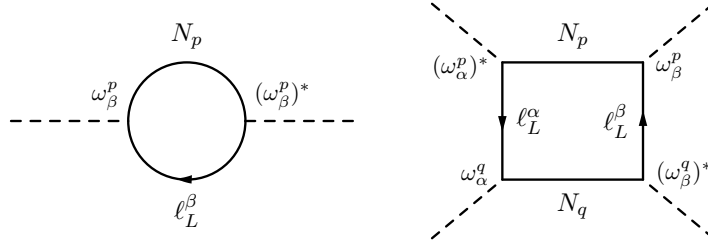


Figure 2: One-loop diagrams leading to threshold corrections to the Higgs potential in the seesaw model.

schematically in Fig. 1, is that the potential parameters can be determined by the thresholds induced at energies $\mu \simeq M$; their values would then run down to the EW scale according the SM RGE, that are known [2]. Generating the scalar potential at higher energies is convenient both because the constraints from direct searches are easily evaded and because the relations among the parameters are altered due to running effects, which can make the construction of the potential numerically easier. A particularly interesting region is, for instance, where $\lambda \simeq 0$: as we show below, the potential can be produced at this scale by a new physics sector giving a suppressed $(H^\dagger H)^2$. A major assumption in this novel setup is that, in the UV, the bare tree-level potential should be subdominant compared to the thresholds. Realizing this condition in a concrete model represents the counterpart of the usual challenges due to the hierarchy problem for this new perspective.

In this talk we show how this idea can be successfully applied in the (arguably) simplest extension of the SM, the type-I seesaw model, obtaining realistic values for the Higgs potential and for the absolute neutrino mass scale m_ν simultaneously [3].

2. Threshold corrections from the seesaw model

We consider a standard type-I seesaw scenario [4, 5, 6, 7], extending the SM with 3 singlet right-handed fields $N_{R,p}$, $p = \{1, 2, 3\}$. In the basis in which the mass matrix m_p is real and diagonal, the relevant Lagrangian is (we use the notation of [8, 9])

$$2\mathcal{L}_{N_p} = \bar{N}_p(i\partial - m_p)N_p - \bar{\ell}_L^\beta \tilde{H} \omega_\beta^{p,\dagger} N_p - \bar{\ell}_L^{c\beta} \tilde{H}^* \omega_\beta^{p,T} N_p - \bar{N}_p \omega_\beta^{p,*} \tilde{H}^T \ell_L^{c\beta} - \bar{N}_p \omega_\beta^p \tilde{H}^\dagger \ell_L^\beta, \quad (2.1)$$

where ℓ is the SM lepton doublet, with flavor index β , and the superscript c denotes charge conjugation defined as $\psi^c = -i\gamma_2\gamma_0\bar{\psi}^T$. The fields N_p satisfy the Majorana condition $N_p^c = N_p$ and they are related to the chirality eigenstates by $N_p = e^{i\theta_p/2}N_{R,p} + e^{-i\theta_p/2}(N_{R,p})^c$, being θ_p the Majorana phases [8]. The couplings $\omega_\beta^p = \{x_\beta, y_\beta, z_\beta\}$ are complex vectors in flavor space. Finally, here and in the following, repeated indices are summed over, unless otherwise stated.

Integrating out the heavy eigenstates N_p and matching onto the dimension 5 Weinberg operator gives the well-known Majorana mass matrix for the 3 light neutrinos $(m_\nu)_{\alpha\beta} = v^2(\omega_\alpha^p)^T \omega_\beta^p / 2m_p$.

Threshold corrections to the Higgs potential are induced in the seesaw model due to the dia-

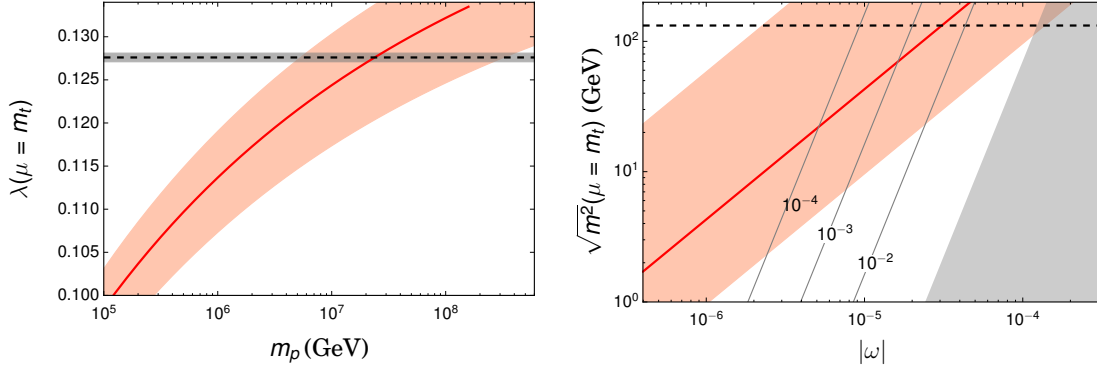


Figure 3: Values of the parameters λ (left) and $\sqrt{m^2}$ (right) extrapolated at the scale $\mu = \hat{m}_t$ as a function of the heavy neutrino mass scale m_p and of $|\omega|$ respectively. The dashed lines and surrounding bands indicate the values consistent with the measured Higgs mass within $\pm 1\sigma$ [13]. The red line in the left panel assumes $\hat{m}_t = 173.2$ GeV and the surrounding band corresponds to varying \hat{m}_t between 171 and 175 GeV (a 2σ error variation [14]). In the right panel, the solid red line assumes $m_p = 10^{1.3}$ PeV, and the grey region is disfavoured due to Λ CDM cosmology limit $\sum m_\nu \leq 0.23$ eV. The three solid lines indicate, for reference, the sum of neutrino masses predicted, in eV.

grams in Fig. 2. The one-loop finite terms are found to be¹ [3]

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta V(H^\dagger H) = & -\frac{m_p^2 |\omega_p|^2}{16\pi^2} \left[1 + \log \frac{\mu^2}{m_p^2} \right] H^\dagger H \\ & - \frac{5(\omega_q \cdot \omega^{p,*})(\omega_p \cdot \omega^{q,*})}{64\pi^2} \left[1 - \frac{m_p m_q \log \frac{m_p^2}{m_q^2} + m_q^2 \log \frac{\mu^2}{m_q^2} - m_p^2 \log \frac{\mu^2}{m_p^2}}{(m_p^2 - m_q^2)} \right] (H^\dagger H)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

in agreement with [11, 12]. Assuming that the Majorana sector has a nearly degenerate spectrum ($(m_q^2 - m_p^2)/m_{p,q}^2 < 1$) all the heavy masses can be approximated to a universal scale m_p . In this limit, both expressions in square brackets in Eq. (2.2) reduce to 1 when evaluated at $\mu = m_p$. Eq. (2.2) can be further simplified, without loss of generality, reducing the entries of ω_β^p to a common coupling scale $|\omega|$. The threshold contributions are then:

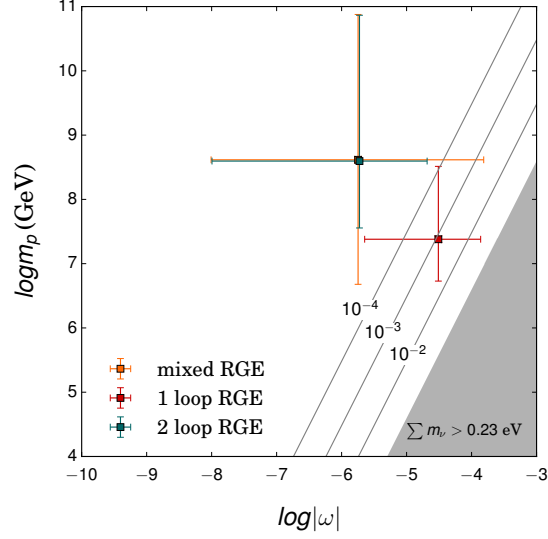
$$\Delta m^2 = m_p^2 \frac{|\omega_p|^2}{8\pi^2}, \quad \Delta \lambda = -5 \frac{|\omega|^4}{64\pi^2}, \quad (2.3)$$

having parameterized the classical Higgs potential as $V_c(H^\dagger H) = -(m^2/2)(H^\dagger H) + \lambda (H^\dagger H)^2$. We assume that these are the dominant contributions to the scalar potential when the N_p are integrated out. The scenario postulated then requires (i) an approximate scale invariance, broken only² by the Majorana masses m_p , and (ii) the bare tree-level Higgs potential to be negligible compared to the thresholds (2.3) at $\mu = m_p$. Constructing a model that fulfills these conditions goes beyond the scope of this work and represents a challenge alternative to the usual hierarchy problem. It

¹The loops are calculated using dimensional regularization and $\overline{\text{MS}}$ renormalization. The threshold corrections are then identified as the zero-th order term in the expansion in v/M (see e.g. Ref. [10] for a detailed discussion).

²Breaking effects of this invariance from SM quantum corrections (in particular QCD contributions) and from the renormalization of the Coleman-Weinberg potential are expected to be subdominant as long as $m_p^2 |\omega|^2 \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2$ [3].

Figure 4: Numerical sensitivity of the results, with all cases showing one loop matching to Δm , λ and including one loop corrections for the remaining SM parameters with one, two loop, or mixed RGEs for all parameters. The mixed case shows one loop running for Δm , λ and two loop running for all remaining SM parameters. The best fit points are indicated with a box in each case with error bars showing the experimental uncertainty in the top quark mass, taken to be its 2σ uncertainty [14].



is interesting to observe, however, that this scenario ties the breaking of scale invariance to the violation of lepton number, which serves as a protective symmetry for the scalar potential.

3. Running down to the scale $\mu = \hat{m}_t$

Below the scale $\mu = m_p$ the N_p states are integrated out, and the parameters run according to the SM RGE. Here we consider the coupled system of 1-loop RGE for m^2, λ , the SM gauge couplings g_1, g_2, g_3 and the top Yukawa coupling $Y_t = \sqrt{2}m_t/v$. Contributions from other Yukawas are neglected and the expressions of the β -functions are taken from Ref. [2]. The differential system is solved fixing the boundary conditions $m^2(m_p) = \Delta m^2$, $\lambda(m_p) = \Delta \lambda$, $g_1(m_t) = 0.3668$, $g_2(m_t) = 0.6390$, $g_3(m_t) = 1.1671$, $Y_t(m_t) = 0.9460$, where the value of g_3 includes RG running at 4-loops in QCD and 2-loops in the EW interactions [2] while those of the other SM parameters are computed at one-loop in the SM using the input parameters $G_F = 1.1663787 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$, $\hat{\alpha}_s = 0.1185$, $\hat{m}_Z = 91.1875 \text{ GeV}$, $\hat{m}_W = 80.387 \text{ GeV}$, $\hat{m}_h = 125.09 \text{ GeV}$ and $\hat{m}_t = 173.2 \text{ GeV}$.

The values of $m^2(m_t)$ and $\lambda(m_t)$ are extrapolated from the RGE solutions as a function of m_p and $|\omega|$. In particular, $\lambda(m_t)$ is found to depend significantly only on m_p (see Fig. 3, left) and the correct value is obtained for $m_p \simeq 10^{1.3} \text{ PeV}$. This result shows a strong sensitivity to the top mass: varying m_t within the 2σ -allowed range 171–175 GeV (red band) can shift the optimal m_p by about an order of magnitude. Fig. 3, right, shows the dependence of $\sqrt{m^2(m_t)}$ on $|\omega|$. The red solid line marks the curve with constant $m_p = 10^{1.3} \text{ PeV}$, while the red band indicates the region spanned varying m_p within the values that give the correct $\lambda(m_t)$ for $171 \leq m_t \leq 175 \text{ GeV}$. The results obtained also show a significant numerical dependence on the loop order used for the RGE, as illustrated in Fig. 4.

For $m_t = 173.2 \text{ GeV}$ and with 1-loop RGE, the correct EW scalar potential is generated with $m_p \simeq 10^{1.3} \text{ PeV}$ and $|\omega| \simeq 10^{-4.5}$, pointing to neutrino masses such that $\sum m_\nu = 3|\omega|^2 v^2 / 2m_p \simeq 3 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}$, which is within the window allowed by the cosmological constraint $\sum m_\nu \leq 0.23 \text{ eV}$ [15]. Neutrino mass splittings and mixings are not reproduced in this simplified study, but they can in

principle be accommodated, given that restoring the flavor structure of m_p and ω_p^p introduces a number of free parameters that is larger than that of the experimental constraints. Because the N_p states are nearly decoupled, no other signature, beyond non-zero neutrino masses, is predicted to show up at the LHC or in other near future experiments.

References

- [1] B. Bellazzini, C. Csáki and J. Serra, *Composite Higgses*, *Eur. Phys. J.* **C74** (2014) 2766, [[1401.2457](#)].
- [2] D. Buttazzo, G. Degrandi, P. P. Giardino, G. F. Giudice, F. Sala, A. Salvio et al., *Investigating the near-criticality of the Higgs boson*, *JHEP* **12** (2013) 089, [[1307.3536](#)].
- [3] I. Brivio and M. Trott, *The Neutrino Option*, [1703.10924](#).
- [4] P. Minkowski, $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$ at a Rate of One Out of 10^9 Muon Decays?, *Phys. Lett.* **B67** (1977) 421–428.
- [5] M. Gell-Mann, P. Ramond and R. Slansky, *Complex Spinors and Unified Theories*, *Conf. Proc.* **C790927** (1979) 315–321, [[1306.4669](#)].
- [6] R. N. Mohapatra and G. Senjanovic, *Neutrino Mass and Spontaneous Parity Violation*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **44** (1980) 912.
- [7] T. Yanagida, *Horizontal Symmetry and Masses of Neutrinos*, *Prog. Theor. Phys.* **64** (1980) 1103.
- [8] A. Broncano, M. B. Gavela and E. E. Jenkins, *The Effective Lagrangian for the seesaw model of neutrino mass and leptogenesis*, *Phys. Lett.* **B552** (2003) 177–184, [[hep-ph/0210271](#)].
- [9] G. Elgaard-Clausen and M. Trott, *On expansions in neutrino effective field theory*, [1703.04415](#).
- [10] I. Brivio and M. Trott, *The Standard Model as an Effective Field Theory*, [1706.08945](#).
- [11] J. A. Casas, V. Di Clemente, A. Ibarra and M. Quiros, *Massive neutrinos and the Higgs mass window*, *Phys. Rev.* **D62** (2000) 053005, [[hep-ph/9904295](#)].
- [12] G. Bambhaniya, P. Bhupal Dev, S. Goswami, S. Khan and W. Rodejohann, *Naturalness, Vacuum Stability and Leptogenesis in the Minimal Seesaw Model*, *Phys. Rev.* **D95** (2017) 095016, [[1611.03827](#)].
- [13] ATLAS, CMS collaboration, G. Aad et al., *Combined Measurement of the Higgs Boson Mass in pp Collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV with the ATLAS and CMS Experiments*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **114** (2015) 191803, [[1503.07589](#)].
- [14] PARTICLE DATA GROUP collaboration, C. Patrignani et al., *Review of Particle Physics*, *Chin. Phys.* **C40** (2016) 100001.
- [15] PLANCK collaboration, P. A. R. Ade et al., *Planck 2015 results. XIII. Cosmological parameters*, *Astron. Astrophys.* **594** (2016) A13, [[1502.01589](#)].